



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Court Allows Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks to Issue Permits for Commercial Pack Stock in Wilderness Immediately

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks is now able to issue use authorizations (permits) for commercial pack stock use in park wilderness areas beginning immediately. Federal District Court Judge Richard Seeborg provided this oral authorization on May 23 during a hearing in San Francisco related to ongoing litigation over the parks' General Management Plan. The interim authorization allows for commercial pack stock use levels up to 80% of use levels in 2007, which was the year the Record of Decision was signed for the parks' General Management Plan. A final written ruling from Judge Seeborg will follow in the near future, which will take into account any enacted legislation to date.

A previous court ruling on January 24, 2012, stated that the National Park Service did not have the authority to issue commercial use authorizations for pack stock in the parks' wilderness.

“We are very pleased that the court has allowed the National Park Service to issue permits for commercial pack stock in the wilderness now, so our local operators can begin their busy operating season without further delay,” said Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich.

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SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.